

Safe Drinking Water: Protecting Public Health

Dear Customers with Irrigation Systems,

If you already have, or are planning on installing an irrigation system you must first comply with **State of Oregon and City of Bend regulations**. These rules and regulations **require that all irrigation systems have approved backflow protection**. A plumbing permit is also required when installing an irrigation system. A plumbing permit can be obtained from the Building Division located at City Hall at 710 NW Wall Street.



Without proper backflow protection, your irrigation system could endanger the health of your family, neighbors, and others in the community who are using the City of Bend public water system.

The following state approved backflow assemblies are required to be installed per City of Bend Standards and Specifications, and must be tested by a State of Oregon

DHS Certified Backflow Assembly Tester upon installation, if moved or repaired and at least annually thereafter, (Oregon Administrative Rules, 333-061-0070):

1. Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assemblies (PVBA)
2. Double Check Valve Assemblies (DCVA)
3. Reduced Pressure Backflow Assemblies (RPBA)

Improper installations of a State of Oregon approved backflow assembly or failure to have the backflow assembly tested as required are grounds for termination of the water service. If you have any questions, please call (541) 317-3000.

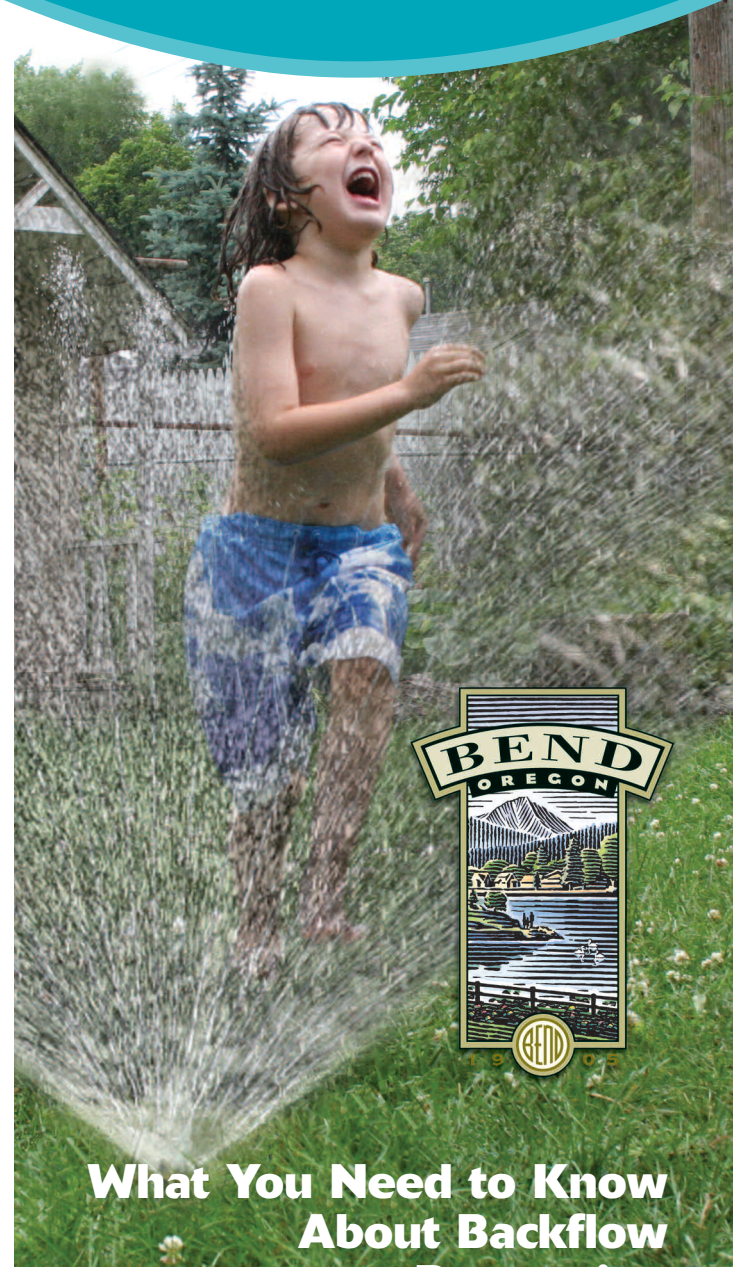
Thank you,

*City of Bend Public Works Department
Safe Drinking Water Program*



City of Bend
710 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97701
www.ci.bend.or.us

*For more information, please go to Safe Drinking Water
on the City's web site at www.ci.bend.or.us
or please call us at (541) 317-3000.*



**What You Need to Know
About Backflow
Prevention**



Keeping Your Water Drinkable is our business.

The City of Bend Water Utility Division makes safe drinking water its highest priority.

Our tap water delivers protection of public health, fire protection, support for the economy and the overall quality of life.

However, we need your help to continue to be successful. Although the water that reaches your home is of the highest quality and is safe, contamination can occur within your own piping system. This brochure describes potential water contamination hazards caused by cross connections that cause backflow, that can allow contaminated water

to flow back into the supply piping, threatening health and safety. The brochure will also explain how you can help keep your water safe and drinkable.

Backflow prevention is one key element in keeping your water safe and drinkable.

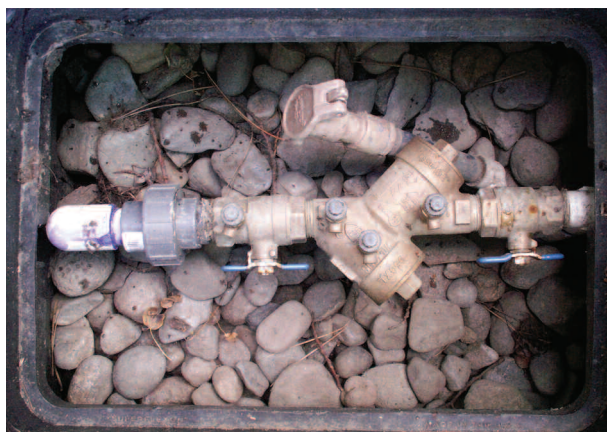
Due to state and federal regulations, water providers are required to track all backflow assemblies that are installed in their water distribution systems and insure that all backflow assemblies are tested and maintained at least annually.



What is Backflow?

Anytime your drinking water supply has an opportunity to come in contact with a harmful substance, a cross connection exists. For example, attaching a fertilizer sprayer to a garden hose or even placing your hose in a soap bucket for car washing creates a cross connection and possible health hazards.

Cross connections can lead to contamination when an unforeseen change in pressure allows the water to flow backwards within the water supply piping. This reversal of flow, called backflow, can allow contaminated water to flow backward, drawing a contaminant into the water supply.



Example: small double check assembly, characteristic of a typical irrigation installation

Under normal circumstances the City water supply is pressurized to keep water flowing to your tap, however, unforeseen circumstances (such as a water main break or the need to fight a fire) can suddenly change the pressure in the supply piping, allowing the water to siphon back from a contaminated source to a drinking water supply.

We need your assistance in preventing contamination of our drinking water due to backflow.

Testing Your Backflow Assemblies



Backflow assemblies must be tested at the time of installation, annually after installation, after repairs and after relocating. Testing in Oregon must be done by Department of Human Services certified backflow testers. For information on backflow testers and Oregon state regulations, check the City of Bend web site's Safe Drinking Water page at www.ci.bend.or.us or call 317-3000.

What You Can Do

Modern water-using fixtures and appliances are made to guard against backflow. Many sinks, toilets, clothes washers and other water-using appliances have built-in backflow prevention features. The most common hazard leading to a backflow incident at a residence is through an underground irrigation system. Other potential hazards also exist in swimming pools, hot tubs, garden hoses, heating/cooling and fire sprinkler systems. These systems require specific backflow protection assemblies installed and tested annually according to currently adopted uniform plumbing code and Oregon Health Division Rules. Please call the Public Works Water Utility Division if you have questions about these requirements or if you need more information about these systems and backflow prevention at (541) 317-3000.